

Serial No. 09/930,720

Attorney Docket No. CAS0048

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 32 through 40 and 48 through 62 remain in this application, in which claims 32, 48 and 54 are independent.

Claims 32 through 40 and 48 through 62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,591,263 B1 to Becker, et al. ("Becker, et al. patent").

Claim 32 provides, *inter alia*, receiving a route-identifier from a user interface, wherein the route-identifier identifies a route between the first location and the second location. Claim 48 provides, *inter alia*, computer readable program code that receives a route-identifier from a user interface, wherein the route-identifier identifies a relationship between the first location and the second location. Claim 54 provides, *inter alia*, receiving a route-identifier from a user interface,

In contrast, the Becker, et al. patent receives route information from a user (col. 5, lines 42 through 55) and stores the route information in a customer account corresponding to the user (col. 10, lines 37 through 45). As described at col. 11, lines 6 through 16, of the Becker, et al. patent, the user can describe the paths of the route using common names and the MTIS translates the common name into appropriate objects. Thus, the Becker, et al. patent describes receiving a route from a user, but does not describe or suggest receiving a route-identifier that identifies the route, let alone a route identifier from a user interface, as required by claims 32, 48 and 54. Therefore, claims 32, 48 and 54 distinguish patentably from the Becker, et al. patent.

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It should be noted that FIG. 5 of the Becker, et al. patent shows a route identifier, i.e., "ROUTE_ID", as part of CUSTOMER_ROUTE 503. Unfortunately, the text of the Becker, et al. patent does not provide any explanation for the origins or use of this route identifier. In view of the fact that the Becker, et al. patent provides details about the type of route information that a user may specify, e.g., ROUTE_DESCRIPTION, the absence of any text about ROUTE_ID suggests that this route identifier is created and used in a manner similar to other references presented in previous Office Actions, namely ROUTE_ID is a transaction identifier that is assigned by the MTIS. The Becker, et al. patent does not describe or suggest receiving a route-identifier that identifies the route from a user interface, as required by claims 32, 48 and 54. Therefore, claims 32, 48 and 54 further distinguish patentably from the Becker, et al. patent.

Claims 33 through 40, 49 through 53, and 55 through 62 depend from and include all limitations of independent claims 32, 48 and 54. Therefore, claims 33 through 40, 49 through 53, and 55 through 62 distinguish patentably from the Becker, et al. patent for the reasons stated above for claims 32, 48 and 54.

In view of the above, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection of claims 32 through 40 and 48 through 62 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein. Also, no amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope

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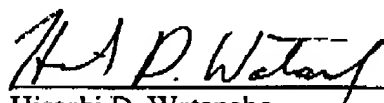
of any claim, unless Applicant has argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct any additional fees arising as a result of this response, including any fees for Extensions of Time, or any other communication from or to credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-2117.

It is submitted that the claims clearly define the invention, are supported by the specification and drawings, and are in a condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Should the Examiner have any questions or concerns that may expedite prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
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